

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 02771 152135Z
ACTION ARA-14

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, MX
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - INJURED GOM PILOT, ARMANDO MERCHAND
DELGADO

REF: 77 MEXICO 18780

SUMMARY: ARMANDO M E R C H A N D DELGADO WAS INJURED
01 NOV 1977 IN THE CRASH OF BELL 212 XC-GAB AND HAS
RECEIVED EXTENSIVE TREATMENT SINCE THAT DATE. CON-
SULTING PHYSICIAN RECOMMENDS TESTS AND POSSIBLE TREAT-
MENT IN THE UNITED STATES. REQUEST DEPARTMENT CONTACT
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION TO DETERMINE LOCATION AND DATE
THEY CAN RECEIVE MERCHAND. END SUMMARY.

2. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, MERCHAND SUFFERED EXTENSIVE IN-
JURIES TO HIS LEFT ARM WHEN HIS AIRCRAFT CRASHED
WHILE ON A SPRAY MISSION IN GUERRERO. ACCORDING TO DR.
CASCAJARAS, CONSULTING PHYSICIAN, LEFT ARM SUSTAINED
EXTENSIVE NEURO-MUSCULAR INJURY IN THE CRASH. TREAT-
MENT THUS FAR HAS INCLUDED SURGERY ON LEFT HAND AND
WRIST, AND ELECTRO THERAPY TO STIMULATE NERVES. MERCHAND
NOW HAS ABNORMAL SWELLING AND ONLY MARGINAL FEELING IN
HIS ARM, AND VIRTUALLY NO CONTROL OVER FINGERS OR THUMB.

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3. DR. CASCAJARAS HAS INFORMED ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
THAT MERCHAND IS FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT TREATMENT IN
MEXICO IS INEFFECTIVE, RESULTING IN PSYCHOLOGICAL BLOCK
IMPEDING RECOVERY. CASCAJARAS RECOMMENDS EXAMINATION
IN THE UNITED STATES, IF ONLY TO CONVINCE MERCHAND THAT
ALL POSSIBLE IS BEING DONE FOR HIM.

4. ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, REFERRING TO COMMENTS MADE BY DR. PETER BOURNE DURING HIS VISIT TO MEXICO IN DECEMBER, HAS ASKED EMBASSY TO ARRANGE EXAMINATION AND POSSIBLE TREATMENT FOR MERCHAND IN THE UNITED STATES. ACCORDING TO VETERANS ADMINISTRATION LETTER OF 01 DEC TO DR. BOURNE, A COPY OF WHICH HE GAVE TO THE EMBASSY AND TO ATTORNEY GENERAL FLORES, THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD CONTACT DR. JAMES SHERRILL, DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY, TELEPHONE 389-3329, TO ARRANGE ADMISSION TO A VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONTACT SHERRILL, ARRANGE ADMISSION FOR MERCHAND, AND INFORM EMBASSY OF DATE AND LOCATION AT WHICH MERCHAND SHOULD REPORT. LUCEY

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